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STATE FOR EB, IO, AND EUR/AGS
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E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: AUSTRIA SUPPORTS USG POSITION ON WHO
INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP

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¶1. Econ Unit Chief delivered reftel points on November 22 to Gabriella Habermayer, Head of the Ministry of Economy's (MoE) Multilateral Trade Division. Habermayer said that the MoE concurred with the USG position that the WHO should not intervene in issues, such as IP protection, in which it has little or no competence. Habermayer said the MoE has an excellent working relationship with the Austrian Ministry of Health (MoH), which consistently takes MoE views into account. In addition to coordinating closely with the MoE, the MoH works closely with Austrian trade officials at the GoA's Geneva Mission. Habermayer promised to pass on the talking points to the MoH well in advance of the Intergovernmental Working Group meeting.

¶2. Habermayer suggested that the WTO Secretariat should take a more active role vis-a-vis the WHO Secretariat on trade and IP issues to ensure the WHO is fully aware of the trade implications of its decisions.
Phillips